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Nantwich Rural District

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer
of Health**

FOR THE YEAR

1955

To which is appended the Report
of the Chief Public Health
Inspector

Nantwich Rural District

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To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council :—

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Nantwich Rural District, for the year 1955, which also incorporates the report of your Chief Public Health Inspector.

As was reported in previous years one might be reasonably pleased with the sanitary condition of the district in most matters apart from Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, and the hope was then expressed that no obstacles would arise which would impede the progress of the Haslington and Wistaston Sewage Disposal Works.

The financial restrictions began to be apparent towards the end of the year and since then even more strict economies have been enforced, and at the moment it is difficult to foresee when the work will eventually commence on the former project which in 1936 was agreed to be a matter of extreme urgency.

Whilst welcoming the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations it is difficult to reconcile these ideals with the low standard of sanitation still existant in some parts of the district.

It is only to be hoped that when there is some relaxation of the restriction on Local Government Expenditure this Council's schemes will receive that degree of priority which their urgency deserves.

An excellent report has again been given by Mr. Townley. It is of interest that he has now completed 21 years as "Chief Sanitary Inspector" and it is appropriate that his coming of age in your service has coincided with the change of designation more appropriate to the present day work of the Department.

I again place on record my thanks to the members of the Council and the staff for their continued co-operation which I greatly appreciate.

I have the honour to be your obedient Servant,

R. KENNETH HAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,
Stapeley House,
Stapeley.

17th October, 1956.

Nantwich Rural District Council.

HEALTH AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

The Whole Council.

Chairman :—Councillor H. Cookson.

Vice-Chairman :—Councillor F. Birchall.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NANTWICH DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor F. E. Charlesworth

Councillor J. Dullson

Councillor E. S. Dutton.

Councillor C. W. Jones.

Councillor F. A. Moore

Councillor W. Richardson.

Councillor W. S. Seymour.

Councillor J. H. Williams.

Councillor Mrs. A. W. Dodd.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer : Dr. R. Kenneth Hay, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector : John S. Townley, M.S.I.A.,
M.Inst.P.C.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector : John Craven,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. I of Housing,

1st Additional Public Health Inspector : Gerald S. Wright,
M.S.I.A.

2nd Additional Public Health Inspector :

Malcolm B. Elliott, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,

3rd Additional Public Health Inspector : Eugene H. Peet,
M.S.I.A., (12.4.55)

Shorthand Typist/General Clerk : Miss Gillian Hockenhull

Clerk : Philip Cornes (August 1955 H.M. Forces).

Clerk : S. H. Tomlinson (Temporary) (16.8.55).

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	100,823
Population	....	....	....	....	....	28,640
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955)	....				....	7,011
Rateable Value (1st April, 1956)	....	....	....	....	....	£230,190
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated 1956/57)	....	....	....	....	....	£898

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The district is situated in the South East of Cheshire. It adjoins the County of Salop in the south and the County of Stafford in the east, and forms part of the alluvial plain of Cheshire. It

surrounds the Borough of Crewe and Urban District of Nantwich. Whilst the area is predominantly agricultural, a large proportion of the population is to be found in those parishes contiguous to Crewe and Nantwich, in which towns they find their employment. The main source of employment in the Rural District is agriculture and industries allied with it. These take the form of Milk and Milk product factories, corn mills and agricultural engineering : the latter having increased locally with the mechanisation of farming. There is one clothing factory, which in the main employs female labour. There is virtually no unemployment in the area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total	Male	Female
Live Births	....	....	394	194	200
Legitimate	....	....	380	186	194
Illegitimate	....	....	14	8	6

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.75.

Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.71.

The figure for England and Wales being 15.0.

			Total	Male	Female
Still Births	....	....	9	6	3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)				....	14.07
Deaths	....	....	320	179	141

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, 11.17.

Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, 10.61.

The figure for England and Wales being, 11.7.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	....	....	10.15
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	....	....	10.52
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....	....	Nil
	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	46	20	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil	Nil	Nil

Deaths.—The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age (males and females) was 4, all of which were under four weeks of age.

The following figures supplied by the Road Safety Officer, Mr. F. C. Slade, are included in detail to emphasise the fact that the number of deaths on the roads in this District was in 1955 more than three times greater than occurred for all forms of Tuberculosis.

Total number of Accidents	....	....	....	212
Total number Killed (under 5 years)	....	....	....	NIL
Total number Killed (aged 5 to 15 years)	....	....	....	NIL
Total number Injured (under 5 years)	....	....	....	4
Total number Seriously Injured (under 5 years)				2
Total number Injured (aged 5 to 15 years)	....			17
Total number Seriously Injured (5 to 15 years)				5
Total number of persons Killed (aged over 15)				11
Total number Injured (aged over 15 years)	....			101
Total number Seriously Injured (aged over 15)				15

From these figures it will be noted that the total number of persons killed was 11.

The total number injured 122 including 22 seriously.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

The following weather conditions for the year have been kindly supplied by the Principal of the Cheshire School of Agriculture, Reaseheath, Nantwich :—

Climatic Data 1955.

1955 Month	Rainfall	Air Temperatures in °F.	
		Maximum	Minimum
January	.... 1.945"	53	15.5
February	... 1.475"	55	12
March	.... 1.935"	52	22
April	.... 1.35"	66	28
May	.... 2.370"	70.5	29
June	.... 2.820"	73	33
July	.... .47"	86.5	42
August	.... .92"	83.5	39.5
September	.... 2.425"	74.5	38.5
October	.... 1.675"	70	21
November	.... 1.320"	61	24
December	.... 2.645"	59	18

Total rainfall 1955, 21.350"

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
Tuberculosis, other	0	2	2
Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm stomach	3	2	5
Malignant neoplasm breast	0	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	8	1	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	4	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	16	25
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous system	32	23	55
Coronary disease, angina	36	11	47
Hypertension with heart disease	8	4	12
Other heart disease	29	34	63
Other circulatory disease	5	6	11
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Bronchitis	2	4	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	9	0	9
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	0	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	13	20	33
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
All other accidents	5	3	8
Suicide	3	0	3
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Total (all causes)	179	141	320

There was no cause of unusual or excessive mortality.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Year of Immunisation and Vaccination		IMMUNISATION		VACCINATION	
		Primary Immunisation	Re- Immunisation	Primary	Re- Vaccination
1951	...	335	69	215	96
1952	...	282	94	178	25
1953	....	184	443	255	34
1954	....	215	504	201	41
1955	....	113	171	184	14

The arrangements, administered by the Divisional Health Committee for the immunisation and re-immunisation of children continues to work well, but as pointed out in my previous report, the total number of notifications received from general practitioners for children under school age, is far below the actual number of immunisations performed. This fact is borne out during School Medical Inspections and School Immunisation Sessions when it is found, especially in the more urban districts, that a relatively small percentage of children require primary immunisation following entry into school.

During the year 7 schools were visited for the purpose of re-immunisation. There are now facilities for the primary immunisation of any child who has not received immunity against Diphtheria prior to entering school provided the consent of the parent is obtained.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health, is meeting all needs for bacteriological investigations but does not undertake the chemical analysis of water.

For local convenience, samples of ice cream and milk and medical specimens are examined at the Chester City Hospital Laboratory, and use is also made of the laboratories at Manchester and Birkenhead.

The County Analysts are employed for the chemical analysis of water.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

During 1955 there was again an increase in the number of patients carried, the present figure being double that recorded in 1950. It is encouraging however, to note that this increase was accompanied by a decrease in the annual mileage. This has been accomplished by a closer liaison with hospitals with regard to out-patients appointments.

The service was responsible for the conveyance of 8,895 patients to and from hospital out-patient departments, etc. The total mileage covered was 101,429 whilst 2,727 journeys were undertaken. These figures compare favourably with 8,437 patients, 104,664 miles and 2,502 journeys for the preceding year.

B.C.G. VACCINATION.

This scheme also administered by the Divisional Health Committee and commenced in 1954 worked smoothly throughout the year.

As a result of approaches made to the Mass Miniature Radiography Unit all school children shown to be of Tuberculin positive during the course of investigation are now offered the facility of having an x-ray of chest.

The following tables gives a statistical analysis of the work performed during the year.

Year	No. of Parents Notified	Parents Consent Given	No. of Children Tuberculin Positive	No. of Children Receiving B.C.G.	Percentage of Children Tuberculin Positive
1954	112	100	38	57	38.0
1955	462	376	143	205	41.4

NURSING SERVICES.

Most valuable work continues to be carried out by the 15 Nurse/Midwives serving the District. Apart from a few minor alterations in the districts no major changes took place during the year.

For information purposes a detailed list of Nurses and Health Visitors with the parishes they cover, is shown in Appendix I.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Ophthalmic Clinic at the Barker Street Welfare Centre is available to all school children, and children under five.

The Ante-Natal Clinic staffed by County Midwives is held at the above centre.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic is held at the Crewe Memorial Hospital.

The Paediatric Clinic is held at the Stalbridge Road, Crewe, and Ludford Street School Clinics.

The Orthopaedic Clinic is run in conjunction with the Orthopaedic out-patients Department of the Oswestry Hospital, and is held at the British Railways Rooms, Nantwich Road, Crewe.

A clinic for dental treatment for mothers, school children and children under five years, is held at the Barker Street Welfare Centre.

HOSPITALS.

General hospitals at Crewe, Nantwich, and Hartshill in Staffordshire, serve the Rural District, with the old Isolation Hospital at Worleston being available for convalescent cases.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases in the Rural Area are accepted at the Crewe Isolation Hospital, which has met all needs during the year.

The Maternity Hospital at The Cliffe, Wybunbury, together with the Maternity Hospital at Linden Grange, Crewe, and the Maternity wards at the Barony Hospital, are available to the Rural District.

Hospitalisation of tuberculous patients is at Hefferston Grange within the County of Cheshire, and the Cheshire Joint Sanatorium in the County of Salop. In addition, there is within the Rural District at Wrenbury a rehabilitation centre for tuberculous patients, who are trained in light industrial occupations.

MORTUARY FACILITIES.

The arrangements made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee for the use of the mortuary at the Barony Hospital, Nantwich, have worked satisfactorily and continued to meet the needs of the Rural District.

DISINFECTION.

Terminal disinfection is carried out at homes of patients suffering from infectious diseases, as and when required. Arrangements for the steam disinfection of bedding and clothing, etc., are made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee, the work being carried out at the Crewe Isolation Hospital.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Responsibility for this work was transferred to the Cheshire River Board as from the 1st October, 1951.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which deals with this matter is attached hereto.

SHOPS ACTS.

The District Council is responsible for enforcement of provisions relating to the health and comfort of shop workers with respect to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences, and the requirements in this connection are being adequately complied with.

SCHOOLS.

There were no schools closed during the year as a result of infectious diseases or epidemics.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This matter is dealt with in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector which is attached hereto.

NUTRITION.

No action under this heading has been taken by this Council, but the Welfare Centres at Audlem, Haslington, Shavington, Wistaston and Wrenbury, under the supervision of the Divisional Health Committee, have continued to do valuable work in this respect.

SHELL-FISH.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in this district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 23 cases of Scarlet Fever as against 52 last year, and no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Nine cases of Tuberculosis were notified, of which seven were Pulmonary; these exclude Inward Transfers.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis which had not been previously notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES NOTIFIED (including Inward Transfers) AND MORTALITY DURING 1955.

Age Periods	New Cases and Transfers				Deaths			
	Resp.		Non Resp.		Resp.		Non Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—.....	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
5—.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—.....	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—.....	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
35—.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	6	4	—	3	1	—	—	2

Total cases : 13

Deaths : 3.

Number of cases remaining on the tuberculosis register at the end of the year :

Males		Females	
Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non Pulmonary
71	11	58	25

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following is a tabular statement of cases notified during the year.

Disease	Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever	23	8	—
Pneumonia	18	—	6
Whooping Cough	72	—	—
Measles	413	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Food poisoning	1	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	2	2	1

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

It is hoped that the Council will soon be in a position to eliminate a large proportion of the pail closets in the closely built up parts of the Rural Area, there being at the present time somewhere in the region of approximately 2,831 in the district receiving the weekly cleansing service. Apart from the health aspect, a considerable saving will be made by the adoption of closet conversion schemes as soon as adequate sewers and sewage works are provided, and this will go a long way towards off-setting the cost of these much needed facilities.

CAMPING SITES

There is only one approved camping site in the district which is situated in the parish of Church Minshull, and is licenced for 20 vans. It is well managed and no nuisances or other problems have arisen.

The siting of individual vans has however, met with some opposition, but so long as the law permits this type of dwelling, control under the Town and Country Planning Acts, seems to be the most effective means of limiting their use.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

The close liaison between the Council, the Divisional Health Committee, the Local Health Authority and the County Welfare Department made it possible to administer Section 47 without legal proceedings. In many cases, the provision of a Home Help made it possible for aged persons to continue residence in their own homes, in their own familiar environments.

The Council had to undertake funeral arrangements in two cases under Section 50 of this Act.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER INSECT PESTS.

No Council or Private Houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Disinfection of one private house infested with fleas was carried out.

The Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. G. T. Jury) provides the following information with respect to Sewerage and Sewage Disposal and Housing :—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Council's proposals for new sewage disposal works at Wistaston and Haslington proceeded a step further with the Ministry's consideration of the scheme submitted by the Crewe

Borough and the subsequent decision that the Ministry would approve in principle the proposals of the Nantwich R.D.C. with a view to authorisation later.

The Council's scheme for the sewerage of the Dig Lane Area of Wybunbury was submitted to the Ministry after receiving approval in principle from the County Council. It is anticipated that the Ministry will hold an Inquiry into these proposals in the new year.

The scheme of drainage for Larch Avenue, Basford and also a relief sewer at Worleston were completed. With regard to the Council's proposals for the relaying of the main sewer through Willaston and Wistaston the Ministry held an Inquiry and approved this scheme. Tenders for the work have now been invited.

Work is still proceeding on a scheme of drainage for the Township of Audlem, and preliminary investigations are being made regarding a possible scheme for the Walgherton area.

The Newcastle R.D.C. have under preparation a scheme for the drainage of the Betley district of their area, and as this is on the borders of this Council's area, consideration is being given to the possibility of this scheme serving some of the properties in the area.

Plans have been prepared for the erection of a public convenience at Willaston and will shortly be submitted to the Ministry.

HOUSING.

During the year 147 dwellings have been completed, of which 78 were erected by private enterprise.

Houses erected by the Council were completed in the following parishes :—

Buerton	....	....	7
Wistaston	....	....	58
Wrenbury	....	....	4
			<hr/>
			69
Private Enterprise	....		78
			<hr/>
			147

In addition the Council also completed the erection of 4 Shops and Flats at their Wistaston Housing Site.

At the close of 1955 Housing work proceeding was limited to Contracts for the small type bungalows at Wistaston and Wrenbury.

Some progress has been made with respect to the temporary living accommodation existing at site 7 Wardle, and by the end of the year some 14 Units of accommodation had been vacated and huts demolished.

Proposals to develop the Council's site at Wardle with 26 permanent houses were adopted and submitted to the Ministry, and it is felt that if this scheme is proceeded with swiftly the unsatisfactory conditions now existing on this site will not have to continue through another winter.

On the Walgherton Camp Site, 8 Units of accommodation were vacated. The only other hatted Camp within the area is at Doddington Park where the Council are negotiating with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government with effect to rehousing of the occupants.

Crewe Corporation continued their development within the Wistaston Parish and up to the end of the year a total of 188 houses had been erected.

The Council continued to consider applications for Improvement Grants under the 1949 Housing Act and such Grants amounted to £13,630 covering 75 properties.

Under the Housing (Financial Provision) Act, 1938, etc., assistance was given in respect of 2 dwellings erected for the housing of agricultural workers.

Cases of infectious disease showing incidence of cases in various age periods among civilians :—

	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	TOTALS
Under 1	—	—	—	8	16	—	—	—	—	24
1—	—	1	2	5	22	—	—	—	—	30
2—	—	—	—	5	30	—	—	—	—	35
3—	—	3	—	10	49	—	—	—	—	62
4—	—	1	—	9	42	—	1	—	—	53
5—	—	14	2	34	227	—	—	—	—	277
10—	—	3	—	1	12	1	—	—	—	17
15—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	5
20—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	6
35—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4
45—	—	—	5	—	2	—	—	1	—	8
65+	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTALS :	2	23	18	72	413	1	1	1	2	533

APPENDIX I.

NURSES AND HEALTH VISITORS SERVING THE NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

Nurses	Parishes
Mrs. L. C. JONES, The Grove, Acton. Tel. No. Nantwich 5571.	Acton, Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Brindley, Burland, Edleston, Faddiley, Henhull, Hurleston, Stoke, Wardle.
Mrs. E. C. HURST, Conniston, Bunbury Heath, Tarporley. Tel. No. Bunbury 367.	Alraham, Bunbury, Calveley, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow.
Mrs. R. E. FORT, Laundry Cottage, Rookery Park, Worleston, Nantwich. Tel. No. Nantwich 5941.	Aston-Juxta-Mondrum, Cholmondeston, Leighton, Church Minshull, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Wettenhall, Woolstanwood, Worleston.
Miss M. H. HUNTER, The Gables, Audlem. Tel. No. Audlem 422.	Audlem, Buerton, Hankelow, Newhall (part), Coole Pilate.
Mrs. E. WEATHERALL, 27, Cresswellshaw Road, Alsager. Tel. No. Alsager 67.	Barthomley.
Miss L. E. DENISON, Sundawn, Park Estate, Shavington. Tel. No. Willaston 7234.	Basford, Chorlton, Hough, Rope, Shavington - cum - Gresty, Weston, Wybunbury (small part).
Miss A. JONES, Mill Grove, Bulkeley. Tel. No. Broxton 31.	Bickerton, Bulkeley, Egerton.
Miss M. A. EDWARDS, 2, Back Lane, Walgherton. Tel. No. Wybunbury 345.	Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Doddington, Hather-ton, Hunsterson, Lea, Walgherton, Wybunbury (part).
Miss W. A. GEORGE, Council Houses, Newhall Lane, Aston, Newall. Tel. No. Aston 286.	Broomhall, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Marbury-cum-Quoisley (part), Newhall (part), Norbury (part), Sound, Woodcott, Wrenbury-cum-Frith.
Miss M. BROCKLEHURST, Bickley Moss, Whitchurch. Tel. No. Cholmondeley 268.	Cholmondeley, Chorley, Marbury-cum-Quoisley (part), Norbury (part).
Mrs. J. BANKS, 33, Cartwright Road, Haslington. Tel. No. Crewe 2693.	Crewe Green, Haslington.

Miss E. REILLY,
41, London Road,
Nantwich.
Tel. No. Nantwich 5570.

Batherton, Stapeley, Willaston (small part).

Miss E. M. DEANE,
5, Elworth Street,
Sandbach.
Tel. No. Sandbach 256.

Warmingham.

Miss O. M. HEATH,
Hawthorn Cottage,
Church Road, Malpas.
Tel. No. Malpas 96.

Wirswall.

Miss S. G. BLACK,
31, Coppice Road,
Willaston.
Tel. No. Willaston 7109.

Wistaston, Willaston (part).

Health Visitors

Mrs. F. G. KIRKHAM,
St. Bees,
Marsh Lane,
Nantwich.
(no phone).

Acton, Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Batherton, Brindley, Broomhall, Bulkeley, Bunbury, Burland, Cholmondeley, Chorley, Coole Pilate, Edleston, Faddiley, Haughton, Hurleston, Marbury-cum-Quoisley, Norbury, Peckforton, Ridley, Sound, Spurstow, Stapeley, Stoke, Wirswall, Woodcott, Wrenbury-cum-Frith.

Miss E. M. SCOTT,
The Dowery,
Welfare Centre,
Barker Street,
Nantwich.
Tel. No. Nantwich 5360.

Alpraham, Aston - Juxta - Mondrum, Calveley, Cholmondeston, Henhull, Leighton, Church Minshull, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Wardle, Warmingham, Wettenhall, Woolstanwood, Worleston.

Miss D. GRIFFITHS,
The Gables,
Heathfield Road,
Audlem.
(no phone).

Audlem, Basford, Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Buerton, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Chorlton, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Doddington, Hankelow, Hatherton, Hough, Hunsterson, Lea, Newhall, Rope, Shavington - cum - Gresty, Walgherton, Weston, Wybunbury.

Mrs. A. CLAYTON,
7, Crewe Street,
Crewe.

Barthomley, Crewe Green, Haslington.

Mrs. J. BITTEN,
Bellevue Farm,
Malpas.
(no phone).

Bickerton, Egerton.

Miss R. WALCH,
28, Park Road,
Willaston.
(no phone).

Willaston, Wisaston.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Public Health Department,
Stapeley House,
Nantwich.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council :—

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have again pleasure in contributing to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health; 1955 being the twenty-first year on which I have had the honour to report.

By the middle of April the staff establishment of Public Health Inspectors was at full strength and very soon the outside work of the department began to run smoothly in top gear. The office organisation, however, was seriously disrupted, firstly by the call-up for National Service of Mr. P. Cornes, the Clerk in the department, and secondly, in consequence of the incapacity of Miss G. Hockenhull our Shorthand Typist/General Clerk, through sickness. A temporary clerk was appointed, but the absence of the regular staff was seriously felt.

Meat inspection continued to call for many hours of work outside normal hours, to the extent that a regular weekend rota had to be arranged. In spite of all the difficulties, 100% inspection was maintained.

A housing survey to enable submission of proposals to the Minister for dealing with unfit houses, as required by Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was carried out.

Considerable progress was made with survey work under the Factories Act, 1937, the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and also with respect to private water supplies, and it is pleasing to note that many of these are being superseded by main supplies.

The rapid growth of the Public Health Department in post war years has been inevitable, bringing with it an increased burden of responsibility which I am pleased to record continues to be greatly eased by the loyal co-operation of all my staff—both indoor and out—for which I am truly grateful.

The active and friendly interest of Dr. R. K. Hay, our Medical Officer of Health, in all branches of our work, commands our highest respect for him as a colleague.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Weekly cleansing of approximately 2,831 pail closets and the fortnightly collection of household refuse from 8,739 dustbins, continued regularly throughout the year, the usual delays arising at Bank Holiday periods, when overtime had to be worked to obviate inconvenience to householders.

The scavenging of new housing estates being developed by Crewe Corporation and ourselves at Wistaston, together with new houses being erected by private enterprise in that parish, presented a serious problem. By some re-organisation and the working of overtime it has so far been possible to cover this additional work within the scope of the fixed establishment of labour and transport.

The siting of refuse disposal tips has an important bearing on the efficiency of the whole scheme. The additional site at Weston during the year made it possible to plan disposal on a long term basis, and so cut out the need for constant re-routing of the work, particularly in the semi-urban parishes.

The disposal of nightsoil by composting continued to work satisfactorily, the resulting product being readily disposed of as manure in Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach, Alsager as well as in our own area.

The existence of our own workshops, staffed by two mechanics has kept us completely independent of outside organisations, with an incalculable saving in time and money. Regular servicing and maintenance have reduced breakdowns to a minimum, which otherwise would call for additional expense in overtime to make up the time so lost by such delays. We are also able to plan renovation of bodywork to coincide with mechanical overhauls on a three year basis, which, bearing in mind, the continuous heavy work the scavenging vehicles are called on to perform speaks well for the attention they are regularly receiving, and which without our own workshops would not be possible.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

During the year under review the Council continued to take such steps "as may be necessary," to secure so far as practicable that the district was kept free from rats and mice. The position at industrial premises, of which 16 are treated and controlled under annual agreement, was found to be extremely good, only minor infestations being encountered. Eight agreements were made for the treatment of private dwellings, and there were 5 treatments of Schools made at the request of the County Council

who were charged on a cost plus basis. Sewers, sewage works and refuse tips were kept under constant supervision and treated as required.

Close liaison was maintained with the Pests Control Department of the Agricultural Executive Committee, whose activities kept agricultural land under adequate control.

LICENSED HOUSES.

A second survey under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Public Health Act, 1936, was carried out during the year of the fifty-one licensed premises in the District.

The general standard of hygiene and cleanliness was found to be good. A constant supply of hot and cold water was provided in all cases. Regular cleansing of pumps was being carried out and cellars were found to be maintained in a clean condition.

Many houses have been modernised and improved since the last survey was made and in most cases this has included the construction of new and better sanitary accommodation. In one case representation to the Brewery has resulted in the commencement of works of improvement which will include the provision of new water closet and urinal accommodation in place of an insanitary urinal and privy midden.

Frost protection is still poor in a number of outside water closets and urinals, causing difficulty in cleaning during frosty weather.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following is a copy of Form 572 forwarded by the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the guidance of Medical Officers of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to Factories:—

Part I of the Act.

Premises	No. on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities.	9	3	—	—
2.—Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority.	88	35	2	—
3.—Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	29	4	—	—
Total	126	42	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”.)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temp. (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ven- tilation (S.4)..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drain- age of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Con- veniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	2	—

Outwork—Sections 110 and 111—2 Wearing apparel.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	....	1,313
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	....			105
Housing Acts, 1936-49	....	....	....	974
Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (including Meat Inspection)	....	....	....	3,589
Factories Act, 1937	....	....	....	42
National Assistance Act, 1948	....	....	....	19
Milk and Dairies Act, 1950	....	....	....	4
Water Act, 1945	....	....	....	157
Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949	....	....		23
Slaughterhouses Act, 1954	....	....	....	7
Shops Act, 1951	....	....	....	4
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54	....	....		1
Pet Animals Act, 1951	....	....	....	2
Other Visits	....	....	....	24

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The usual enquiries and investigations were made into cases of infectious disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health, there being 107 visits for this purpose.

Disinfection was carried out when necessary, and careful attention was given to the exclusion of school contacts and the control of food handlers.

Ten specimens were submitted to the laboratory in connection with the investigation of infectious disease.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified and appropriate action taken :—

Erysipelas	....	....	....	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....		2
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	23
Pneumonia	....	....	....	18
Whooping Cough	....	....		72
Measles	....	....	....	413
Dysentery	....	....	....	1
Food Poisoning	....	....	....	1
Poliomyelitis	....	....	....	2

NOTICES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Public Health Act, 1936 :—

Preliminary Notices Served	108
Preliminary Notices Complied with	82
Statutory Notices Served	19
Statutory Notices complied with	16

Legal proceedings were necessary in one instance in connection with the above.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

There was one Preliminary Notice served under this Act, and no Statutory Notices served.

FOOD POISONING.

There was one case of food poisoning notified during the year, the source of origin not being traced.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Statutory Notices were served in 7 cases, under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

HOUSING.

For the purpose of submitting proposals to the Minister as required by Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a re-survey was completed of the houses placed in the "Demolition" and "Reconditioning" Categories in 1949, there being 345 and 303 houses involved, respectively. The revised figures show that there are still 281 houses to be dealt with for demolition, in respect of which action has already been commenced in 111 cases. In the "Reconstruction" Category the new figure is 163.

The final figure in the form of proposals to the Minister, indicates that action in the first five years will involve the demolition of an estimated number of 140 houses.

During the year action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 in 14 cases, resulting in 11 Demolition Orders being made, two undertakings being accepted, and one Closing Order being made. Ten houses were demolished—eight as a result of formal and two by informal action, the former being the subject of Demolition Orders made in previous years.

At the end of the year there were 111 houses in various stages of demolition procedure under Section 11. Progress was made towards re-housing occupiers in council houses, and this continues, leaving the problem of actual execution of the Demolition Orders, and there is every indication that in many cases the Council will have to consider undertaking the work in default of the owners concerned.

The Council was faced with the problem of re-housing three very large families, two accepted the offer of council houses,

and the third found its own alternative accommodation.

Prior to formal action under the Housing Acts, arrangements are made wherever possible to meet owners on the site to discuss future action, and those who are considering carrying out works of improvements are advised on the procedure relating to improvement grants, but only in one such case during the year was a grant approved. All other houses involved were found to be structurally unsound.

It is intended to make formal representation with respect to several houses each month in order to fulfil the programme as submitted to the Minister.

No applications for licences for temporary occupation under Section 6 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received, and the two licences granted in 1955 are still valid

The fact that we have only received four applications for Certificate of Disrepair under Section 26 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 since it came into operation, indicates that owners of property are reluctant to undertake the cumbersome procedure, which in most cases is likely to involve them in further expense.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Further attention has been given during the year to premises in the area not connected to the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board mains, and in particular to those in the Parishes of Wirswall and Peckforton, which have not been included in previous surveys.

The earlier surveys, made in 1949/50, 1952 and 1954, established that, by the commencement of 1955, 52 dwellings in the area (excluding Wirswall and Peckforton) were supplied from private sources, and of these 21 had been found unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination. Occupiers concerned had been advised to boil all water before use, and informal action was in progress with the owners.

During the year, 2 of the 21 unsatisfactory premises were connected to the mains, and 2 others (canal cottages) had filters installed for the treatment of existing supplies.

During the year a re-survey was commenced of the 31 premises with private supplies which had been found satisfactory on previous examination. 17 have so far been dealt with, of which 6 are now connected to the mains, 5 have again proved satisfactory on bacteriological examination, and 6 have been found bacterio-

logically unsatisfactory. Protective measures as above have been taken with regard to the unsatisfactory supplies, and informal action instituted with the owners.

The Parish of Wirswall having now been provided with a piped supply by the Water Board, a survey was made during the year which revealed that 7 properties still drew water from private sources. On bacteriological examination the supplies to 5 were found to be contaminated and “suspicious,” while the remaining 2 proved unsatisfactory on chemical analysis. The usual action was taken; 2 houses have since been connected to the mains.

Finally, a survey was made of supplies in the Parish of Peckforton. The bulk of the parish is served, under private agreement, by the Liverpool Corporation Aqueduct which crosses this area ; 2 houses have piped water supplies from Tarvin R.D.C., 3 have well supplies ; and the remainder, including 7 occupied dwellings, are fed from the Castle supply which originates from a spring in Tarvin Rural District. In addition, 1 outlying property is on the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board main.

Bacteriological examination revealed that the Castle supply and 2 of the wells were unsatisfactory, and the matter was taken up with the Estate Office and Tarvin R.D.C. As a result the Castle supply has been subjected to chlorination treatment and a series of samples taken since have indicated some improvement. Warnings to the occupiers concerned to boil all water before use are, however, still in force.

Summary

Excluding the Liverpool Corporation Aqueduct supply to Peckforton, the following is a summary of the condition of private supplies in the area at the end of 1955.

Number of surveyed premises converted to mains supply since the First Water Survey was made (1949/50)	....	....	....	....	....	....	45
Number of premises still on private supplies	....	....					59
Number of premises on unsatisfactory private supplies							39
Number of premises on satisfactory private supplies (tested 1955)	....	....	....	....	....		6
Number of premises on satisfactory private supplies (not yet re-tested)	....	....	...	....	....		14
Number of water samples taken in year, Bacteriological							44
						Chemical	3

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption was maintained. This entailed 3,152 visits and to meet trade requirements the majority of these had to be made in the early morning, in the evenings, and at weekends.

Animal casualties have frequently to be dealt with as may be expected in an agricultural area. These considerably affect the amount of meat condemned and widen the range of causes for condemnation. Tuberculosis, however, remains the highest single reason for condemnation. The estimated total weight of meat condemned was 60 tons 12 cwts. 2 qrs. 25 lbs.

Details of animals slaughtered during the year with particulars of carcasses, and parts or organs found to be unfit for human consumption are shown in the following tble.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle (excl. Cows)	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Goats	Total
Number killed	2118	2136	6129	16343	9397	1	36124
Number inspected	2118	2136	6129	16343	9397	1	36124

**ALL DISEASES EXCEPT
TUBERCULOSIS**

Whole Carcasses condemned	5	36	54	63	16	—	174
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	287	618	20	1482	1225	—	3632
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	13.8%	30.6%	1.2%	9.5%	13.2%	—	10.5%

**TUBERCULOSIS
ONLY**

Whole Carcasses condemned	11	48	10	13	1	—	83
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	195	769	1	609	1	—	1575
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.7%	38.2%	0.18%	3.8%	.02%	—	4.6%

Cysticercus bovis was found in 38 carcasses and of these 36 were detained in cold store for the prescribed period before being released for human consumption; the remaining two were condemned failing agreement to detain in cold storage, and the following table shows the percentage affected and how these were divided between cows and “other cattle.”

	Animals Inspected	Number Affected	Percentage Affected
Cows	2,136	8	0.4%
Other Cattle	2,118	30	1.4%
TOTAL	4,254	38	0.8%

The higher percentage of cattle other than cows affected with this condition will be noted, and is causing considerable concern in the trade.

Swine fever was suspected in six cases during the course of routine inspection at slaughterhouses, the appropriate authority being notified in each case, and the animals concerned condemned.

SLAUGHTERING FACILITIES

Sixteen slaughterhouses were again licensed and remain in use in the district. Generally these may be divided into three main groups :—

- (a) Premises used by wholesalers, the bulk of whose meat is sold outside the Rural District 4
- (b) Premises used in conjunction with shops outside the Rural District 6
- (c) Premises primarily supplying shops within the Rural District 6

It is interesting to note that the number of animals dealt with at (c) was 11.1% of the total slaughtered in the Rural District.

Forty-five slaughtermen’s licences have been issued.

OTHER FOODS.

Food storage and preparation rooms have been inspected from time to time and are being maintained at a high standard of cleanliness.

The bye-laws with respect to the handling and wrapping of food, etc., made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are being well complied with and are no doubt serving a useful purpose.

The following articles of food were condemned during the year :—

Canned Foods :—

					Lbs.	oz.
Meat	....	....	....	....	19	11
Fish	....	....	....	....		7½
Vegetables	....	....	....	....	5	5
Fruit	....	....	....	....	1	0
Soups	....	....	....	....		15½
					<hr/> 27	<hr/> 7
Milk	....	....	....	....	1½ pints (equiv.)	

There are 58 premises registered for the sale of ice cream, and five for its manufacture for the purpose of sale; one of the latter using the pasteurisation process.

Regular inspections of these premises has been maintained and 119 samples were taken with the following results :—

Grade I	....	....	....	....	75
Grade II	....	....	....	....	31
Grade III	....	....	....	....	9
Grade IV	....	....	....	....	4

The greater part of the milk consumed in the area is pasteurised.

The following licences to use special designations were issued by the Council :—

Pasteurised (Dealers')	....	....	....	20
Pasteurised (Supplementary)	....	....	....	11
Sterilised (Dealers')	....	....	....	16
Sterilised (Supplementary)	....	....	....	5
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers')	....	....	....	26
Tuberculin Tested (Supplementary)	....	....	....	11

In connection with the above 26 samples were taken with satisfactory results :—

Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	....	4
Tuberculin Tested (Past)	....	....	....	....	8
Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	12
Sterilised	....	....	....	....	2
					<hr/> Total
					26 <hr/>

Following frequent inspection of churns at milk factories, many rusty churns have now been replaced by new churns, and no complaints are being received from farmers.

CANAL BOATS

The Canals in the district are not being used to any great extent by industrial traffic, pleasure boats having now gained ascendancy. No canal boats were inspected during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

Only one such trade exists in the district, and is carried on without nuisance.

SHOPS ACTS

Inspections at shops indicate that the requirements with respect to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences continue to be very well complied with.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN S. TOWNLEY, M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

17th October, 1956.
